Loss due to Sardar Sarovar Project

4715. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item captioned "It is necessary to solve new disputes on Narmada project" which published in the Gujrati newspaper Sandesh dated the 28th February, 2000;

(b) whether Government have come to know that the work of Sardar Sarovar Project has come to a stand still;

(c) whether Government are also aware that due to stoppage of work Government are losing Rs. 8 crore per day and the total loss has come to Rs. 14,000 crores;

(d) whether it is in the interest of the development of the State; and

(e) if not, the measures to be taken to solve the problem immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) Yes sir. The work on various components of the Sardar Sarovar Project is in progress except the construction of the Dam which is constrained due to Civil Writ Petition filed by the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) in Supreme Court in 1994. At present the issue of further raising of the Dam is subjudice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. A definite construction schedule is necessary to estimate loss due to delay in the construction of the dam, which depends on the final verdict of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Availability of Water

4716. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGRWALLA:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that water availability in urban as will diminish substantially in the next five years; and

(b) if so, what strategies are adopted to improve the condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) India receives a rainfall of about 4000 billion cu.m. every year. Out of this, about 1869 million cu.m. appears as average annual runoff in the various rivers of the country. Thus, on an average the water availability in the country remains more or less fixed according to the natural hydrologic cycle. However, the availability of water is assessed basin-wise & not on the basis of rural-urban sectors. It is estimated that due to increasing population, the average annual per capita availability may come down from about 1869 cu.m. at present to 1250 cu.m. by 2025 A.D. at the National level. According to international criteria any situation of yearly water availability of less than 1000 cu.m. per capita is considered as scarcity condition. Therefore, even by the end of 2025 A.D., India is not likely to face water scarcity situation at the national level, though uneven water availability may cause local water scarcity in some parts of the country. The requirement of the country upto 2025 A.D. can be met through optimal utilization of these renewable water resources.

(b) A live storage capacity of 176.73 BCM has been created by construction of large dams and medium projects upto 1995. Projects to add an additional capacity of about 75.42 BCM are under construction and 132.32 BCM are under planning. The replenishable Ground water are of the order of 432 BCM, out of which about 154 BCM has been developed for use.

Government of India is promoting Rainwater Harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and Roof-top Rainwater Harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge. A National Water Policy already exists which provide planning and management of country's water resources in a sustainable basis.